

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes For The Meeting Of March 4, 2002.

In attendance were Jack Johnson, Rustum Goede, Ted Packard, Ron Feldman, Joey Gluschko, Ron Feldman, John Brennan, Scott Smith, Bruce Lederer. Christopher Tonkin, Stephan Miller.

The meeting opened at 7:34 and we all introduced ourselves.

The Bike Parking Warrant Article. Joey, Ted and Rustem will represent ABAC this evening in front of the Redevelopment Board to answer questions about the bike parking warrant article written by Jack and Joey. Jack asked if ABAC members could speak at Town Meeting in favor of the article. Joey answered that that was probably not possible. Ron asked about the lack of specific language about the type of bicycle rack required. Jack answered that we can provide guidelines to the Department of Public Works so they can serve as a reference.

Draft of the new trail-guide brochure for Minuteman Bikeway. Jack showed us the most recent draft of the guide which he primarily designed. He asked for comments and pointed out that the new map contains mostly current information about the path rather than the previous historical railroad orientation. There was a lot of information which would not fit into the design or is of too transient a nature so Jack proposed that there be a companion web site at www.minutemanbikeway.info that will contain the information contained in the brochure and the overflow. Jack gave a detailed presentation about the design of the brochure which will be reviewed by the three other towns on the path before publication.

Bikeway maintenance. Jack delivered an update from Rich Bento about the bikeway repaving which, hopefully, will happen in the early spring. The project must still go out for bid and he doesn't know how long that will take. ABAC will keep in touch with Rich to determine when the path will be paved. In addition, Rich said that the town is doing a major cleanup of the vegetation along the Bike Path and, hence forth, maintenance of the vegetation will be done on a weekly basis by an outside contractor.

Transportation Committee update. The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has a new web site at www.tac.arlington.ma.us. TAC has also written an warrant article about the work to be done on the Mass. Ave. corridor in East Arlington. There will be a public meeting on March 26 at the Fox Branch Library to discuss this topic with the citizens. A major concern is to increase pedestrian safety.

Current appointment process. The ABAC executive committee has been short members for some time. At the next Selectman's Meeting ABAC is nominating four new appointees, Christopher, Ted, Stephan and Scott. In addition Ron and Jack seek reappointment. The meeting is on March 18 at 7 pm.

Upcoming events.

Bike Arlington Tour. This year's tour is planned for Sunday May 5. We discussed the possible start and stop sites plus the possible routes between. No decisions were made. Jack was concerned that restroom facilities be available at the start of the ride. Ron will check on the cost of renting a Portapotty. Stephan will assist Jack in mapping out this year's route.

Bike Rides for Ordinary People. Bruce announced three upcoming rides. They will be on April 21, May 19 and June 16.

Friends of Great Meadows will be meeting on March 12.

May 11-19 is Bike Week in the Metro Boston area. A number of bike related activities are planned throughout the area.

Regional bicycle paths. John Brennan appealed for support from ABAC for several regional bike path projects. He enumerated the projects in Massachusetts and the progress being made on each of them. He asked if ABAC or we as individuals could lend occasional support in the form of letters and testimonials. Jack explained that, at the moment, our support must be as individuals.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Submitted by Stephan Miller